

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
April 27, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:48 p.m., Bernadette Villarreal presiding.

Present: Bernadette Villarreal, Bryan Simmons, Michelle Amader, Karen Cepress, Nan Johnston, David Book, Crystal Hawes, Don Mothershead, Jeff Odell, Rich Russo, Pete Huller, Randy Karasek, Marcia Cody, Jim Lowell, Nick Hertel, Rob Kershner, Sal Lucido, and Steve Thompson.

Excused absences: Joe Moses, Sam Buttrey, Bob Volgelpohl.

A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Bryan Simmons, seconded by Nick Hertel and passed by voice vote.

Opening Business:

I. President's Report

Bobby Howell presented an opportunity for PG Pony Baseball to take catching and hitting lessons from his son, Trevor Howell. Bobby asked board members to help distribute flyers among the league. These are private lessons during June and July. Fees are \$20 per ½ hour, and \$30 per hour.

Regarding Dave Stamm's generous donation, Karen Cepress drafted a wonderful letter of gratitude that will accompany the check for \$18,000. Dave will then return the money as a donation. Michelle is working on getting a plaque made for Dave to be presented at the Dinner Dance, and his sponsor fee will be waived.

We will be hosting the Bronco Sectional Tournament which starts 19 July; a committee needs to form to handle this task.

Nan Johnston is heading up the Mustang Invitational Committee. Nan is soliciting volunteers to assist her. Nick Hertel and Pete Huller volunteered to assist her. A flyer is already available on the website.

Mustang and Bronco reps received all star patches, pins, eligibility affidavits and rule books for the upcoming all star season.

Good Old Days went very well thanks to Crystal Hawes' organizational skills. The softball girls who represented the league got lots of cheers during the parade.

Jess Gibbs donated 2 Charlie Daniels tickets and 2 tickets to Gilroy Gardens (formerly Bonfante Gardens) for the Dinner Dance Auction.

Sam sent a letter to the Crocker family thanking them for their generous donation. Rob Kershner asked that the league send a letter to the Canterbury Woods organization for their donation during the Muni Scoreboard event. Rob will email Sam the details to craft the letter. Jeff Odell stated that the league needs to ensure we recognize ALL who donate goods, services and time to our league, as they're the ones who keep the league running.

The All Star Manager Selection Committee for baseball and softball will consist of Marcia Cody, Nick Hertel, Jim Lowell, Nan Johnston, and Rich Russo. The committee will make selections on May 2nd, assuming letters are turned in by May 1st. The all star draft for Bronco, Mustang, and Pony will be May 23rd at 5pm, 6:30pm, and 8pm, respectively.

II. Vice President's Report: Bryan Simmons will speak with the photographer to find out exactly what time the make-up picture day will begin on Sunday, 6 May. There is also a Bronco game being played that day. All teams save two have their picture packages.

III. Softball Director: Sal mentioned that some travel team has gotten access to our pitching machine and electricity at Forest Grove. Bernadette suggested ways of securing the equipment.

Rookies: Jim Lowell mentioned that finding the pitcher's mound at Arnett was very difficult, suggesting maybe caps to mark the holes would help. Jeff Odell will obtain caps to fix this problem. Jim also mentioned that there's a big mudhole in leftfield at Arnett Park; Nick Hertel will report this to the City Buildings and Grounds Superintendent.

IV. Baseball Director: Rich Russo mentioned that if umpires do not show up, it's okay to wait 15-20 minutes for the umpire to arrive. Randy Karasek and Pete Huller said that they'd prefer to begin sooner than later in order to maintain better attitudes. Don Mothershead stated that there is a website called Arbiter where umpires can post their schedules. This might assist us with being able to ensure our games are covered. Members suggested we address the umpiring contract for next year to ensure late umpires are paid appropriately.

Rich raised the issue originally raised by Joe Moses via email about why we have A and B All Star teams. Joe's issue was that the league might more equitably distribute money by having only one all star team and use the B team money elsewhere. Some members voiced concerns about our B teams possibly being less competitive against other cities. Dave Book stated that the board should determine some quantifiable way of having two all star teams, be it based on how many teams or how many players per division. Michelle mentioned that we are seeking sponsors to defray registration costs.

The Mustang Invitational begins on June 16th and we do not have GW Park reserved as yet. Don noted that a family has reserved the field for that day. Rich suggested we play the Mustang A portion of the tournament at Muni. Randy said the concession stock

would need to be moved from GW Park to Muni for the tournament. Rich also suggested investing in putting some cinders on Muni for this tournament as well as the Bronco Sectional. Randy had concerns about the hardness of the field – Don suggested watering it, however the quick coupler needs to be replaced.

Rich suggested promoting the events at GW Park during Science Camp Week as a means of improving concession stand sales and heightening interest in Bronco league play.

Randy asked if we were going to offer a fall baseball program, similar to last year. Dave Book offered his assistance in putting a program together and asked if we might consider scheduling a few games for the Mustang level. By deciding now, we can offer spring season players the opportunity to register for the fall league.

Randy suggested allowing sponsors to throw out the ceremonial first pitch during playoffs, which was enthusiastically supported.

Assistant Baseball Director: Pete Huller reported that he spoke with Winners Trophies; Pete will meet with Mike at Winners tomorrow to discuss specifics about trophies and manager gift plaques. Pete will get an estimate on the expense and ensure that Mike understands the specific due dates for all medallions and trophies.

Pinto: Crystal Hawes asked that we put a new lock on the port-a-john at Robert Down field. Pinto has had some problems with coach pitch in terms of limiting batters to six pitches. Rich will address this issue with coaches. Crystal introduced Steve Thompson, who will seek to replace Crystal next year as Pinto rep.

V. Concessions: David Book lauded the parent help in the concession stands thus far this year. David asked if Joel Wood can ensure we have a working public address system for the upcoming events at GW Park and Arnett. David offered to craft a giant thank you card using pictures of each player in the league to present to Dave Stamm. Bryan mentioned that Dave had his team present the players on each team that they played with a t-shirt in their team color stating “Property of...”

Dave suggested perhaps we consider implementing a similar fundraiser to the one the PG High School Lacrosse Team used at Good Old Days (dunk tank). We can revisit this idea later in the year in time to make a decision for next year’s Good Old Days. Michelle suggested pony rides, as an example.

Randy Karasek stated that we’re about \$4,000 ahead of last year’s concession receipts, due largely to fewer rainouts.

VI. WebMaster: Randy stated that we’ve received more pictures for the website, which is good. Tournament info is being posted as it’s received.

VII. Equipment Director: Jeff Odell stated that the fields are in good condition, thanks largely to Don's crew. Jeff suggested purchasing new catcher's gear (from Cages) with the donation we received.

Nan Johnston offered to take used/unwanted equipment to donate to a team in Mexico. Bernadette suggested maybe we consider donating used cleats as well.

VIII. Sponsorship Organizer: Michelle Amader stated that donations are pouring in for the Dinner Dance (May 19th), however more are always welcome. Tickets are at concession stands for purchase, and coaches are encouraged to sell tickets among their teams. Some comments about flyer readability prompted Randy Karasek to volunteer to upgrade the flyer which he will email to all parents. Division reps will be responsible for ensuring tickets are either sold or returned to Michelle Amader. Make checks payable to PG Pony. Michelle will also need volunteers to assist with decoration/setup for the dance that afternoon. An added bonus – Michelle unveiled the news that there will be two chocolate fountains this year.

We had an issue with sponsor names being misspelled. Michelle mollified the disgruntled sponsor by offering to refund the sponsorship fee and complimentary Dinner Dance tickets; the sponsor graciously demurred but agreed to assist next year.

IX. Treasurer: Karen Cepress presented the March bank statement (reconciled), stating that the books and the bank statement are in agreement. The Profit & Loss Statement showed the current bottom line, less the donation from Dave Stamm.

X: City Rep: Don Mothershead thanked the board for assisting in making the Muni Scoreboard dedication a tremendous event. A check for \$504 "is in the mail" from the rec department.

Don reported that the free baseball skills contest will take place this Sunday, 29 April – Pitch, Hit, and Run – at PG High School at 4pm, ages 7-14. Winners will travel to the next round at Daly City.

Don thanked those who are helping him on Saturday mornings with field prep. This will result in being billed only half fees for these services.

Mark Gilpin will be leaving on Friday, May 27th for a new position at Fresno State University.

XI. Other business: No other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 24, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Huller
Acting Secretary